



South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

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Task Force Purpose

The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force) is the only forum that provides strategic coordination and a system-wide perspective to guide the separate restoration efforts being planned and implemented in the South Florida Ecosystem. The **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996** established the Task Force and outlines its purpose and basic duties.

- **Intergovernmental Coordination**
 - Coordinate the development of consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, activities, and priorities for addressing the restoration, preservation, and protection of the South Florida Ecosystem.
- **Coordination of Strategic Science**
 - Coordinate scientific and other research associated with the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem.
- **Exchange of Information**
 - Exchange information regarding programs, projects and activities of the agencies and entities represented on the Task Force to promote ecosystem restoration and maintenance.
- **Facilitation and Conflict Resolution**
 - Facilitate the resolution of interagency and intergovernmental conflicts associated with the restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem among the agencies and entities represented on the Task Force.
 - Provide assistance and support to agencies and entities represented on the Task Force in their restoration activities.
- **Public Participation and Access**
 - Facilitate public participation in the advisory process, including providing advance notice of meetings, providing adequate opportunity for public input and comment, maintaining appropriate records, and making a record of the proceedings of meetings available for public inspection.

Implementation

To fulfill these duties, the Task Force is supported by the **Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives (OERI)**. The Task Force and OERI:

- Conduct regular, public, intergovernmental coordination meetings
 - Task Force
 - Working Group
 - Science Coordination Group
- Establish advisory bodies as necessary to assist the Task Force in its duties, such as:
 - Regional teams (Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team)
 - Issue teams (Invasive Exotic Species)
- Facilitate stakeholder workshops as needed
- Provide publicly-accessible, web-based information on restoration issues, reports, and meetings



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Task Force Membership

WRDA 1996 dictates that the Task Force include 7 federal, 2 tribal, and 5 state and local representatives.

Task Force Membership	
Agency/Department/Tribe	Representative
U.S. Department of the Interior	Secretary of the Interior (Chair) or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Department of Commerce	Secretary of Commerce or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Army	Secretary of the Army or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Department of Justice	Attorney General or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Administrator or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Secretary of Agriculture or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
U.S. Department of Transportation	Secretary of Transportation or a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or equivalent
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	1 representative appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the recommendations of the tribal chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida	1 representative appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the recommendations of the tribal chairman
State of Florida	2 representatives appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the recommendations of the Governor of Florida
South Florida Water Management District	1 representative appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the recommendations of the Governor of Florida
Local Governments in the State of Florida	2 representatives appointed by the Secretary of the Interior based on the recommendations of the Governor of Florida

- **Chair:** Secretary of the Interior (WRDA 1996) or their designee.
- **Vice Chair:** Non-federal member nominated and elected by the other members (Vice Chair Protocol).
- The Task Force is not considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- The Task Force seeks consensus on all issues; when needed, the Voting Protocol is utilized for a 2/3 majority vote on final action items.
- **Executive Director/OERI:** supports the Task Force and its Working Group, Science Coordination Group, and advisory bodies.



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Working Group Membership

WRDA 1996 requires the Task Force to establish a Florida-based **Working Group** that includes agencies and entities represented on the Task Force as well as other governmental entities.

Working Group Membership	
Agency/Department/Tribe	Representative
U.S. Department of the Interior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Park Service Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey Bureau of Indian Affairs 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Marine Fisheries Service National Ocean Service, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Army: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Justice	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Resources Conservation Service 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Transportation	Appointed by the Task Force member
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	Appointed by the tribal chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Appointed by the tribal chairman
State of Florida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Office of the Governor Florida Department of Community Affairs (Abolished) 	Appointed by the Task Force member or, if not represented on the Task Force, by the Governor
South Florida Water Management District	Appointed by the Task Force member
Local Governments/Regional Planning Councils in the State of Florida (5 or less)	Appointed by the Task Force member or, if not represented on the Task Force, by the Governor
Chair, Science Coordination Group (non-voting)	
Other agencies/governments (non-voting)	

- **Chair and Vice Chair:** Working Group makes recommendations for Task Force appointment.
- **Alternates:** Members may designate an alternate by notifying the Chairperson or Executive Director.
- The Working Group is not considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- The Working Group seeks consensus on all issues; when needed, a voting protocol is utilized for a 2/3 majority vote on final action items.



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Science Coordination Group Membership

WRDA 1996 requires the Task Force to coordinate scientific research and other restoration activities. The Science Coordination Group (SCG) was established to assist with this coordination.

Science Coordination Group Membership	
Agency/Department/Tribe	Representative
U.S. Department of the Interior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Park Service Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Marine Fisheries Service-SEFSC Ocean and Atmospheric Research-AOML 	Appointed by the Task Force member or, if not represented on the Task Force, by the head or designee of the agency/department
U.S. Army: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Appointed by the Task Force member
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Research Service 	Appointed by the Task Force member or, if not represented on the Task Force, by the head or designee of the agency/department
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	Appointed by the tribal chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Appointed by the tribal chairman
State of Florida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 	Appointed by the Task Force member or, if not represented on the Task Force, by the Governor
South Florida Water Management District	Appointed by the Task Force member
Local Governments	Appointed by the Task Force member
Chair, Working Group (non-voting)	
Other agencies/governments (non-voting)	

- **Chair and Vice Chair:** SCG makes recommendations for Task Force appointment.
- **Alternates:** Members may designate an alternate by notifying the Chairperson or Executive Director.
- The SCG is not considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
- The SCG seeks consensus on all issues; when needed, a voting protocol is utilized for a 2/3 majority vote on final action items.



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Task Force Reports prepared by OERI

The Task Force/OERI issues several reports on Everglades restoration, many in response to Congressional direction.

Task Force Reports		
Document	Purpose	Role
Biennial Report	Fulfills requirements in WRDA 1996 to report biennially to Congress on Everglades restoration activities and the progress made toward restoration.	OERI prepares document with member input. Task Force accepts the document. OERI posts on website.
Integrated Financial Plan (IFP)	Fulfills requirements in WRDA 1996 to report annually on proposed restoration funding. The IFP includes the status and costs of individual restoration projects in detailed project sheets .	OERI prepares document with member input. OERI posts on website.
Cross-Cut Budget	Provides an annual consolidated overall budget for Everglades ecosystem restoration efforts with information provided by both federal and state agencies.	OERI prepares document with member input. OERI posts on website.
Strategy	Responds to Congressional direction (House Conference Report 106-479) and outlines how the restoration effort will occur , identifies the resources needed, and establishes responsibility for accomplishing actions. It is organized by three strategic goals .	OERI coordinates updates as needed. OERI posts on website.
System-wide Ecological Indicators	"Stoplight" assessment of the progress of the Everglades restoration program from a system-wide perspective by showing how key ecological components respond comprehensively to implementation of restoration projects. A summary is included in the Biennial Report.	OERI coordinates biennial updates. OERI posts on website.
Plan for Coordinating Science	Responds to Congressional direction (House Report 108-195) to document how the Task Force coordinates science .	OERI and SCG coordinate updates as needed. OERI posts on website.



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Related Reports

Other Everglades restoration reports are conducted by Task Force members and partners.

Other Restoration Reports		
Document	Purpose	Role
CISRERP: Committee on Independent Scientific Review of Everglades Restoration Progress	Established by the National Research Council in 2004 in response to a request from the USACE, with support from the SFWMD and USDOl, based on Congress's mandate in WRDA 2000 . The committee is charged to submit biennial reports on CERP's progress in restoring the natural system .	Task Force/OERI Role: Financial assistance and reviewing for accuracy. OERI posts on website.
SFER: South Florida Environmental Report	Annual progress report which unifies dozens of individual mandated reports and plans into a single document. Updates key scientific results and findings as well as fiscal information.	Lead Agencies: SFWMD and FDEP Task Force/OERI Role: OERI posts on website.
CERP 5 Year Report	Five-year joint report by the secretaries of the Army and the Interior, required by WRDA 2000 , that describes the planning, design, and construction work completed, the amount of funds expended during the period covered by the report, and the work anticipated over the next 5-year period.	Lead Agencies: USACE and USDOl Task Force/OERI Role: OERI assists in document coordination, writing, and editing. OERI posts on website.
RECOVER SSR: REstoration, COordination & VERification System Status Report	Evaluates current monitoring data to determine if the goals and objectives of the CERP are being met. Incorporates data collected by the RECOVER Monitoring and Assessment Plan, data from CERP projects, and data provided by RECOVER partners.	Lead Agencies: USACE and SFWMD Task Force/OERI Role: OERI posts on website.
Comprehensive Federal/State of Florida Cost-Share Transparency	Responds to language in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill 2018 Senate Report 115-132 that directs the USACE to provide a "comprehensive snapshot of all SFER cost-share accounting down to the project level for fiscal year 2018."	Lead Agencies: USACE and SFWMD Task Force/OERI Role: OERI posts on website.